

Literacy Links

Volume V, Issue 2

September 2004

Coming Events:

- English I Curriculum Project
September 23-24, 2004
- Authors at the Beach
Carolina Forest Elementary
September 24-25
- ELA Best Practice Seminar Series
Jim and Kathleen Strickland
September 27, 2004
- ELA Best Practice Seminar Series
Teri Lesesne
September 30, 2004

For information about these programs, please refer to the articles in this issue of *Literacy Links*. Past issues of *Literacy Links* can be found on the State Department's web page at www.myscschools.com.

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Professional Development Opportunities with Dr. Janet Allen, National Literacy Expert

Framing Best Practice: English I Curriculum and Instruction

Last school year six pilot teams met monthly with Dr. Janet Allen and members of the ELA team for professional development using a newly created English I curriculum resource that utilizes best practice.

This curriculum resource is organized in thematic modules with a core text and text sets. Some modules have titles for literature circles in addition to the core text.

Six modules have been developed and two additional modules will be developed during this school year.

III-Fated Love, Romeo and Juliet Literature Circle Texts

Son of the Mob
Romiette and Julio
Scribbler of Dreams
If You Come Softly

Get Real, It Happened to Nancy Professional Text: Knowing How: Reading and Writing Nonfiction

Whose Rights? What Responsibilities?, Nothing But the Truth

Can There Be a Perfect Society?, Last Book in the Universe

How Do I Figure Out Who I Am?, Bronx Masquerade

Respecting Differences, Stargirl, Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes

Literature Circle Texts
Sticks and Stones
Skin I'm In
Breaking Point

Professional development for

those who would like to use the English I curriculum resource was offered June 7-8, 2004, at Airport High School.

Because of the overwhelming demand for this two day session, it will be repeated September 23-24, 2004, at Columbia Conference Center off Fernandina Road in Columbia,

Each day will begin at 9:00 A.M. and will conclude at 3:30 P.M. Lunch will be served both days.

During the two days, the participants will learn from Dr. Allen, as well as attend presentations from the pilot schools on the use of the six modules created for English I.

Teachers who attend this session will receive copies of all the core, literature circle, and professional texts. This is a free professional development opportunity.

This session is open only to English I teachers and curriculum coordinators, administrators, and specialists. Participation is on a first come, first served basis.

In addition to this two day session, those who attended the June 7-8 session and the September session, will be invited back to Columbia for four additional days of professional development with Dr. Allen. The dates for these four days are October 28, 2004; December 8, 2004; February 8, 2005; and April 5, 2005.

These four additional days have a closed registration, open only to those who attended one of the

initial two day sessions on the use of the English I curriculum resource.

A registration form for this two day session and a registration form for the follow up sessions are attached to this issue of Literacy Links.

Literacy Leadership Institute

This is a new institute that Dr. Allen designed for school administrators, district personnel, literacy coaches, and higher education faculty. The goal of this institute is to help instructional leaders understand their role in creating and supporting literacy rich environments. This institute was held July 29-30, 2004, at Columbia Conference Center.

For those who attended the Literacy Leadership Institute, you are invited back to Columbia for two additional follow up days of professional development with Dr. Allen. The dates for these follow up sessions are October 29, 2004, and February 10, 2005. The October session will be held at the River Center at Saluda Shoals Park in Irmo, and the February session will be at Columbia Conference Center in Columbia.

Registration information for the follow up sessions is attached to this newsletter.

If you have any questions about the English I project or the Literacy Leadership follow up dates, please contact Allison Norwood at 803-734-2469 or anorwood@sde.state.sc.us.

ELA Team Provides Fall Update in October

The State Department of Education will conduct a fall English language arts update for all district-level language arts coordinators and literacy leaders and college/university faculty on Tuesday, October 5, 2004, from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History in Columbia. Registration will be held from 9:30 A.M. to 10:00 A.M., during which time we will serve coffee only. The meeting will begin at 10:00 A.M. Lunch will be served for your enjoyment around noon.

The purpose of the meeting is to update you on important issues concerning K-12 English language arts in our state. So that the meeting will have relevance for you, however, please use the attached response form to submit topics, questions, and/or concerns for discussion.

To assist you in your travel to the meeting, the South Carolina Department of Archives and History is located at 8301 Parklane Road in Columbia. For directions, please see the attachment. If you need further assistance with directions, you may call 803-896-4408.

So that we can plan appropriately, please complete the attached response form and return it to Judy Redman no later than Friday, October 1, 2004, if you will be able to attend the meeting. If you have questions about this information, please contact Suzette Lee by phone at 803-734-6103 or by e-mail at slee@sde.state.sc.us

WIN Names New Coordinator, Announces EWA Workshops

Thanks to vigorous last minute support for the nation's only such program, the Writing Improvement Network has returned with a new staff, a new location, and new look. Amy Mikell, most recently an English teacher at Airport High School in Lexington District Two and previously the Newspaper in Education Director for The State newspaper, has been named Coordinator.

The new address is Writing Improvement Network, USC Room 609 James F. Byrnes Building, 901 Sumter Street, Columbia, SC 29208.

As for the new look, gone is the ink pen in favor of an updated logo with South Carolina's Palmetto tree and crescent.

Much about WIN will remain the same, however. While the Fall Writing Conference unfortunately had to be shelved this year, it will return in 2005. In addition, the network will renew joint efforts with South Carolina's regional Writing Projects, the Department of Education, and professional education organizations to foster quality literacy programs.

The State Department of Education and the Writing Improvement Network are offering a workshop for schools considering applying for the Exemplary Writing Awards Program in the future.

The workshop will be held on September 8, 2004, and repeated September 14, 2004, at the Columbia Conference Center from 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. All public elementary, middle, and high schools and child

development centers are eligible.

Schools should register

English language arts instructional leaders from their school to attend this workshop. Literacy coaches, teacher specialists, department or grade level chairs, literacy or writing team members, curriculum coordinators, principals, or assistant principals for instruction would all be good representatives for this workshop. Each school may register no more than two participants.

Participation for these workshops is based

on a first-register, first-attend basis. If you do not receive a confirmation of your registration, you should not consider yourself registered. The confirmation will include directions to the workshop site.

For more information about these workshops or if you have any questions, please contact Amy Mikell at amikell0@gwm.sc.edu.



New WIN coordinator Amy Mikell takes a moment outside to reflect on the day.

ELA Team Announces 2004-05 Best Practice Seminar Series

A series of seminars highlighting best practices in the area of English language arts will be offered during the 2004-05 school year to South Carolina K-12 educators by the English Language Arts Team in the Office of Curriculum and Standards and the South Carolina Council of the International Reading Association (SCIRA).

Jim and Kathleen Strickland will kick off this series on September 27, with a session for elementary teachers at the Columbia Conference Center. Throughout the year, three other elementary sessions will be offered, as well as six sessions that target middle and high school. Ellin Keene's session is for K-12 educators.

All sessions will be held in Columbia at the Columbia Conference

Center, with the exception of Session 2, which will be held at the River Center at Saluda Shoals Park in Irmo. Each session will begin at 9:30 A.M. and conclude at 3:30 P.M. Lunch will be provided.

A registration form for all of the sessions is attached to this newsletter. Please note that you may now register for all of the sessions at one time rather than registering prior to a session.

If you have any questions about your registration, please contact Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net. If you have questions about the seminar, the presenter, or the topic, contact Cathy Jones at cjones@sde.state.sc.us or 803-734-0790.

Date	Presenter	Audience	Topic
September 27, 2004	Jim and Kathleen Strickland	Elementary	Making Assessment Elementary
September 30, 2004	Teri Lesesne	Middle/High	Making the Match—The Right Book for the Right Reader at the Right Time
October 4, 2004	Sandra Wilde	Elementary	The Phonics Debate—What It's All About and What Teachers Should Be Doing
November 13, 2004	Sharon Taberski	Elementary	On Solid Ground—Strategies for Teaching Reading
December 10, 2004	Janet Allen	Middle/High	Shared Reading as the Heart of a Comprehensive Literacy Program
January 26, 2005	Cris Tovani	Middle/High	Parallel Experiences: Noticing Thinking to Inform
February 23, 2005	Ellin Keene	All	The Intricacies of the Mind: Teaching Reading
April 7, 2005	Janet Allen	Middle/High	Testing Best Practice: Planning for Results!
April 25, 2005	Harvey Daniels	Elementary	Literature Circles—Beyond the Basics
April 26, 2005	Harvey Daniels	Middle/High	Content Area Reading—Strategies, Interaction, and Skills
May 14, 2005	Jim Burke	Middle/High	Reading Reminders—Tools, Tips, and Techniques

Grants Office Offers Grant Writing Workshop Series

The Grants Office at the State Department of Education will hold the five-session Grant Writing Workshop Series on September 28-30, 2004. This 15-hour series, only for public school and district personnel will help participants more efficiently plan grant programs and write grant proposals.

Dr. Gail Widner, director of the Grants Office, will conduct each session. She is a certified grants specialist and has participated in training at Research Associates, The Foundation Center, and The Grantsmanship Center.

Participants will earn one recertification/

renewal credit hour by attending all parts of each session and taking both the pre-test and the post-test.

Agenda

Sept. 28, Session 1: Understanding the Grants Process, Program Planning, and Finding Funders

Sept. 28, Session 2: Comprehending a Grant Announcement, Reviewing the RFP, and Getting Organized, Preliminary Budget Concerns

Sept. 29, Session 3: Finding Current Research, Using Research, and Writing the Needs Statement

Sept. 29, Session 4: Creating an Effective Project Description, including goals/

objectives, strategies, management, evaluation, and sustainability

Sept. 30, Session 5: Completing the Budget, Adding the Supplementary Materials, and Creating Other Grant-related Documents

The series costs \$75 (nonrefundable) per participant. Registration and payment must be received by 5:00 P.M. Tuesday, September 14, 2004. Late registration (\$85 per participant) is available September 15-17.

A registration form is attached to the newsletter. For more information, call 803-734-5810 or e-mail grants@sde.state.sc.us.

Writing Opportunities Foster Young Writers

South Carolina Writers Workshop

Once again SCWW is sponsoring fiction and poetry contests for high school juniors and seniors. The submission deadline is September 30, 2004; awards will be presented October 17, 2004, during the annual conference at Ocean Creek Resort in Myrtle Beach.

The first place winner in each category will receive \$100. Second place winners will receive \$25.

Students in grades 11 and 12 currently enrolled in public and private schools in South Carolina are eligible. Works submitted by students who have already graduated are not eligible. Each student may enter only one manuscript in each category: fiction and poetry. All entries submitted must be original works of fiction or poetry and must be postmarked by September 30, 2004. Each work must be typed and double spaced on 8 1/2 X 11" white paper with an entry form as a cover sheet. The student's name cannot appear on the entry itself.

Mail entries in 9 X 12" envelope to SCWW, P.O. Box 7104, Columbia, SC 29202. Winners' names will appear on our website at www.scwriters.com. Winners will be notified by mail.

Young Outdoor Writers' Competition

The Young Outdoor Writers' Competition, sponsored by the South Carolina Wildlife magazine and the Harry R.E.

Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund, with the assistance from the State Department of Education and Coalition for Natural Resource Education, seeks to promote young people's interest in the out-of-doors and wildlife conservation and to encourage writing among students in grades 4-12.

The competition requires students to use many of the skills taught under both the science and language arts standards. From independent thinking to demonstration of control of information gathered through research, students' essays show command not only of standard written English, but also of the information-gathering, hypothesizing, and communication process.

Teachers from either subject are encouraged to sponsor students to enter. Entries will be divided into three categories: grades 4-6, grades 7-9, and grades 10-12.

Students and their sponsoring teachers will win prizes for top essays, with the first-place winner from each category published in South Carolina Wildlife magazine.

For deadlines, essay topic, guidelines, and prize information, visit <http://www.dnr.state.sc.us> for details.

Split P Soup

The South Carolina Young Poets Prize is open to all South Carolina residents aged 14-18. The top five winners will receive cash and prizes. Of the top five winners, a grand prize winner will receive an additional cash prize. Winners will be announced by October 23, 2004. All partici-

pants will be invited to attend the first ever South Carolina Young Poets Conference on October 23, 2004. The top thirty winners will be published in an anthology to be circulated statewide.

Nationally acclaimed poet Patricia Smith will judge the competition and perform her work at the South Carolina Young Poets Conference on October 23.

To enter, submit 3-5 original, unpublished poems, entry fee, and entry form (located at www.splitp.org) by October 1. The poet's name should not appear anywhere on the poems. All poems must be typed. Send a self-addressed postcard for receipt only, and an entry fee of \$5 payable to The South Carolina Poetry Initiative/Educational Foundation USC.

Mail poems, entry form, and entry fee to
The SC Poetry Initiative
Dr. Kwame Dawes
The SC Young Poets Prize
Department of English
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

Due to the high volumes of submissions, we cannot accept electronic mail submissions; nor can we accept them on a disk.

Poets, teachers, and parents are encouraged to visit the Split P Soup website at www.splitp.org for additional information, or contact Ray McManus, Program Director or Split P Soup, at splitp@gwm.sc.edu or 803-777-2374.

Help Write the World's Longest Letter

With the support of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), we are pleased to invite you—and your class—to participate in the creation of The World's Longest Letter, sponsored by Pilot Pen.

Pilot Pen, one of America's top pen companies, is facilitating The World's Longest Letter—a project to be written by 3rd and 4th graders around the country that should be both interesting and great fun. Addressed "Dear Mr. President," the letter will serve as a compi-

lation of the hopes and dreams of the nation's young children concerning the future of America—whether it be for world peace, a drug-free neighborhood, equality, etc.

One school from each state will be selected to have its students' letters added to an ever-growing scroll that will travel from state to state, hand-delivered by a specially appointed Pilot Pen courier. When we have all states represented, The World's Longest Letter will be presented to the

President of the United States in Washington.

As thanks for their participation, each school selected will receive a donation of 500 pens, compliments of Pilot Pen. We also believe it is of vital importance to encourage our young children to express themselves through writing. If your school is chosen, we will work to ensure that the arrival of The World's Longest Letter at your school will generate local media coverage to drive home the message that many of our na-

tion's schools desperately need supplies and support.

The World's Longest Letter will start its journey around the country in late September.

If your school is interested in participating, contact Carol Klenfner at longestletter@amc-pr.com for further details on how to qualify. Please include your name, contact information, and the name and address of your school.

Authors Hit the Beach in September

KidConnect2002 would like you join them by attending the fourth annual Authors on the Beach Literacy Conference.

This year's conference is September 24-25, 2004, at Carolina Forest Elementary School, just six miles west of Myrtle Beach on Highway 501 at Carolina Forest..

This year's line up of authors/illustrators/storytellers is sure to please any reader: Carmen Agra Deedy, Brad Bagert, Jerry Pallotta, Steve Swinburne, Michael White, Carol Boston Weatherford, Lester Laminack, Janet Stevens, Susan Stevens Crummel, Will Hobbs, Eric Velasquez, Higgins Bond, and Rob Bolster.

Registration is Friday, September 24, from 5:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. The actual conference begins at 7:00 P.M. with a general session. At this general session, all au-

thors/illustrators/storytellers will present a "short something" for their body of work. This will be followed by an autographing session that will continue until all books are signed.

Only books that are purchased at the conference bookstore will be autographed by the authors. The bookstore will be located in the cafeteria. Again, this year, we will have conference tee-shirts for sale in both child (\$5) and adult (\$10) sizes for the authors to autograph.

Once again, Friday night will be open to families with school-age children that wish to attend. The family fee, good for Friday night only, for those not attending the educational/professional sessions of the conference, will again be \$5 per family.

On Saturday, the sessions will begin at 8:00

A.M. with staggered sessions in the multi-purpose room, library, and classroom workshops. The conference will conclude at 4:00 P.M.

This year, the conference will be limited in seating. Registration fee is \$100 per registration.

To reserve your place at Authors on the Beach # 4, fill out the attached registration form. You can fax (843-448-0929), e-mail (KidConnect2002@aol.com), or mail the form to KidConnection, 2970-28 Swan Court, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577. Or you can register on-line at www.KidConnection2002.com.

For more information, call Annie Smith at 803-450-5653.

SAT Ensures Quality Readers for Essay

The College Board is placing the highest priority on ensuring that students' new SAT essays are graded fairly and accurately. That is why we are requiring that all of our readers be experienced high school and college educators.

All readers for the new SAT essay will be required to:

- Hold a bachelor's degree

or higher

- Teach, or have taught within the last five years, a high school or college-level course that requires writing

- Have taught for at least a three-year period

- Reside in the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii

- Be a U.S. citizen, resident

alien, or authorized to work in the United States

To date, more than 5,500 people have applied to be essay readers. Of this group

- 79 percent have master's degrees or doctorates

- 74 percent focus most of their teaching time on English Language Arts

- 54 percent teach at the

college level

- 42 percent have 11 or more years of teaching experience

For more information on becoming a reader for the new SAT essay, see www.collegeboard.com/newsat/colleges/reader.html.

All information about the new SAT is on-line.

ELA Team Introduces New Member

The ELA team in the Office of Curriculum and Standards would like to welcome and introduce you to Bev Collom.

Bev Collom will work with Pam Wills and Pat Branham to implement and monitor Reading First.

Bev returns to South Carolina spending sixteen years working with the Department of Defense in Germany and then two years in Pennsylvania. During the thirteen years Bev was in South Carolina, she worked in Richland Two. Throughout her career, Bev has worked as a Reading Recovery teacher and a Reading Specialist.

Outside of the office, Bev enjoys playing tennis, snow skiing, and playing with her Golden Retriever, reading, and traveling.

At the moment, Bev is working out of Caroline Savage's office while she is on maternity leave. We hope Bev will be able to move into her office by the end of September. Until then, if you need to talk to Bev, please call her at 803-734-4770 or e-mail her at bcollom@sde.state.sc.us.

She's very excited about working with the excellent educators on the SCRI team.



Free Resources and Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers

The State's Newspapers in Education (NIE) Program

NIE has two new sponsored (free) programs open: 2004 Summer Olympics/Character Education and Zig the Pig Children's Chance/Pediatric Cancer. If you're interested, go to the website at www.niethestate.com. Register first, then place your order. Both of these programs show up as sponsored.

The NIE also has one teacher-pay program that is really good: Everyday Heroes/Character Education. If you're interested in this program, go to the website. Register first and click on teacher paid programs. Your start date is October 7 and your stop date is November 11. The day of the delivery is Thursday, and there are no omit dates.

For more information about these programs or the NIE, contact Tammy Davis Moshier at tdmoshier@thestate.com.

Annenberg Channel Programming

This fall the Annenberg/CPB Channel (ETV Channel 306) is featuring new, free professional development programs.

"Write in the Middle: A Workshop for Middle School Teachers," is an 8-part workshop for middle school teachers. It airs September 20-November 15.

"Developing Writers: A Workshop for High School Teachers," is also an 8-part workshop for high school teachers and airs October 25-December 20.

Plan to take one or more of these or other channel offerings. The complete fall schedule may be seen at http://www.learner.org/channel/workshops/workshop_list.html.

Register now at http://learner.org/channel/workshops/register_info.html then download the print support materials as directed—also free. Teachers may also arrange for graduate credit for \$75 per credit. For more information, go to http://www.learner.org/channel/workshops/graduate_credit.html. School library media specialists and distance ed learning centers

can assist teachers in accessing and/or recording these programs.

Media Literacy

The National Media Education Conference, sponsored by the Alliance for a Media Literate America, is soliciting presentations for its 2005 National Media Education Conference which will be held in San Francisco, California, June 25-28, 2005.

The NMEC is the major forum for media education colleagues to share information and ideas, to develop skills, and learn about curricula and other programs that advance their own professional development and the knowledge of their students and communities.

Submit your proposal online at http://www.amlainfo.org/conference/proposal_submit.php. Proposals will be accepted until October 11, 2004

Common Cents Website

State Farm ® has launched its new Common Cents™ website, an online financial literacy program designed to support parents and educators in their efforts to teach students (K-12) the basic principles of financial responsibility and long-term money management.

Since President Bush signed the *No Child Left Behind Act* in 2002, much attention has been drawn to the importance of financial education in America's schools. Many parents and teachers recognize the importance of financial literacy, however, there has been a shortage of materials to support these efforts in the classroom and for parents at home.

State Farm's Common Cents program teaches six key principles: saving, earning, investing, risk management, decision-making, and money management. This interactive learning tool, located in the "Kids Stuff" section of State Farm's website (www.statefarm.com), includes printable lesson plans and activities for classroom use, a parent's guide with at-home activities, and interactive games for students.

The direct link to the program is

www.sfcommoncents.com.

Operation Outreach U.S.A

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to Operation Outreach-USA (OO-USA), an interdisciplinary literacy and character education program that incorporates humane education themes.

OO-USA is free to schools and is paid for at a cost of \$12 per student and teacher through contributions from corporate, foundation, business, and civic sponsors. Just let us know that you are interested, and we will try to match you with a sponsor.

OO-USA unites schools, teachers, parents, and the community behind a common cause—helping children develop marketable skills while teaching responsibility, justice, determination, respect, compassion, self-esteem, and sound citizenship.

Here's what each OO-USA classroom receives:

- Each participating student receives two books per year to use in classroom instruction and to keep and take home to build personal libraries. OO-USA uses specially selected books that have been chosen for their themes, character building concepts, and relevance to young people's own experiences.
- Bilingual Parent Guides accompany the books home.
- Teachers receive books for the classroom library and grade-level thematic lesson plans to easily integrate the OO-USA themes across the curriculum for grades pre-K to middle school.

OO-USA is used by approximately 810,000 students in nearly 36,000 classrooms in all 50 states and several countries.

If you would like to learn how your school can participate in OO-USA, please visit our website at www.oousa.org, call us at 1-800-243-7929, or e-mail us at info@oousa.org.

High School Teacher Admits Wrong and Makes Change Through SCRI

I was wrong. Wrong, wrong, wrong.

After 17 years of teaching high school English and tech prep English, to seniors, I joined the State Department of Education. I had no idea of what I was getting into, but I knew it was time for a change.

I packed my files of wonderful notes, tests, activities, project ideas, and research ideas and moved into the Rutledge Building. I left my classroom with mixed emotions, but I was certain that I had some valuable information to share with the secondary English teachers across the state and I could help them be better teachers. For years I had been called the "Tech Prep Queen," so I figured conquering a new kingdom would be easy.

Wrong.

I may have ruled the halls in some buildings but not this building. In this building they convene study groups; they have cohorts; and they talk in code: IRA, SCIRA, NCTE, SCCTE, RR, SCRF, CARC, and my personal favorite, SCRI. Before I knew what happened, my crown had disappeared. My reign was over.

After accepting my demotion from queen to plebe, I began to break the code. "A" typically means "association" and "SC" means "South Carolina." As for SCRI, to my high school, no nonsense, lay it on the line, reality check mind, it means a bunch of squealing, touchy-feely women who speak in yet another code. They say things like literature circle, read aloud, reflection, exit slips, shared reading, guided reading, building community, immersion, book pass, writers notebook, rituals, soft eyes, readers theater, and sketch to stretch. This is one code I knew I couldn't break.

Wrong.

Okay, I managed to break the code, but it took me some time. It took me a year of participating in SCRI-MG, that's the South Carolina Reading Initiative in the Middle Grades for those of you who don't have a year to figure it out, to begin to break this code that elementary teachers have known for some time. How could it be that an elementary teacher of all people had something to teach me, the oh-so-wonderful high school English teacher?

I could only figure that one out if I did what they did, so, I began my *Hero's Journey*. I went down *Yellow Brick Roads*, I got stuck *In The Middle*, I discovered *There's Room for Me Here*, and now I *Read It Aloud!* I even had some *Grand Conversations* and got *Knee to Knee, Eye to Eye* before it finally made sense.

It's amazing, absolutely amazing. It is so amazing that I can't believe the transformation. I resisted, with every bone in my body, this thing called SCRI, but it has helped me beyond my wildest dreams. Through SCRI I broke the code and in breaking the code, I'm a better person for it.

Now I know that all students need to have a read aloud. Don't we all miss those moments when someone read to us? Of course we do. If we didn't, books on tape wouldn't be as profitable as they are now. Sure, books on tape help pass the time on a long drive, but the root of their popularity has to do with someone reading to us.

Speaking of reading aloud, some of the best books for reading aloud are picture books. Yes, I have become a picture book fanatic. I have become a picture book fanatic because I have learned that picture books are much more than beautiful artwork; they are wonderful teaching tools. If I had the opportunity to go back into the classroom, I would use a picture book every day. You name it: figurative language, negotiation skills, motivation, ethics, diversity, point of view, irony, communication skills—it's all there. And I always thought picture books were only for children. I think I have more picture books now than I did as a child.

What was that? You think I'm wrong. You, as the knowledgeable high school teacher/administrator think I'm wrong? Not this time.

This past June I presented at the Education and Business Summit in Charleston. This is a conference for high school career and technology teachers. Every seat in my picture book session was filled, and some were standing. They loved it so much, they asked for a list of picture books they could use in their cosmetology classes, automotive technology classes, family and consumer science classes, and even keyboarding and accounting classes. They got their list the very next day.

At this same conference I presented another session on how to prepare students for HSAP, High School Assessment Program. For those of you unfamiliar with high school, this test took the place of the Exit Exam. The teachers in this session loved the idea of a read aloud, couldn't wait to try some shared reading, began thinking of ways to integrate writing time, started making lists of titles for text sets, and realized the value of choice in the selection of reading materials.

Did these teachers know that I learned this information from what I previously thought of as silly elementary school stuff? No. Did they care? No. All they cared about was finding ways to help their students be better writers and readers.

I have only spent one year with SCRI-MG, but I have learned a lifetime of information. I'm a big girl and can admit that I was wrong, which is something the Fonz could never do. (You do remember that from *Happy Days*, don't you?) Sure, I miss my throne from time to time, but the knowledge base that I now have is a much nicer seat.

Editor's Note: This article was written by Allison Norwood, Secondary ELA consultant. Although high school is Allison's first love, she has found new loves along the way that will only enhance the first love.

Professional Development Offered by Office of Assessment

Assessing Standards in the Classroom— A professional development series for K-12 educators

Overview

Assessing Standards in the Classroom is a professional development series in classroom assessment techniques produced by the State Department of Education's (SDE) Office of Assessment. The series will address classroom assessment practices that are aligned with state standards and support standards-based instruction for teachers at the elementary, middle school, and high school level. Topics include best classroom assessment practices, the uses of and types of tests, reliability and validity in classroom tests, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), and the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests (PACT).

Along with the video recorded segments, the SDE has developed a companion document that is divided into modules that correspond to each series segment. The companion document provides activities and exercises that extend and enhance the information covered in the programs so that they may be integrated into the daily lives of teachers. The companion document serves as a stimulus to encourage teachers and administrators to collaborate during the assessment development process. In addition, the companion document contains rubrics that are designed to measure the quality of the teacher-created assessments that teachers design throughout the implementation of the professional development series.

The 11-part series, hosted by Christina Schneider and Theresa Siskind from the Office of Assessment and Robert Johnson from the University of South Carolina, will be televised on ITV channel 304. The series will air consecutively on September 9 and 10, 2004, from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. and again September 20 and 21, 2004, from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Districts may tape the series so that the viewing of segments may be scheduled to meet the needs of individual districts and schools.

Professional Development Funding

Districts may consider using their Professional Development for Standards Implementation (PDSI) and/or their Enhancement (Lottery) Funds to support this professional experience. Both funding sources place a strong priority on increasing teachers' skills in developing classroom assessments and their skills in using assessment data to improve instructional practice. Should a district be interested in using Assessing Standards in the Classroom to provide recertification credit for teachers, professional development funds may be used for instruction salaries (teacher over-time/stipend) and other associated costs.

Districts interested in securing recertification credit in assessment for their teachers should contact Christina Schneider in the Office of Assessment at the SDE (cschneid@sde.state.sc.us). Districts interested in more information regarding PDSI and Lottery funds should contact Marc Drews in the Office of Curriculum and Standards at the SDE (mdrews@sde.state.sc.us).

Overview of the series segments

1. Overview of National, State, and Classroom Assessments
 - Differences and uses of norm-referenced and criterion-referenced tests will be illustrated.
 - Differences and similarities among assessment formats used on standardized tests and classroom tests will be explored.
 - Differences and similarities among the purposes of standardized tests and classroom tests will be explored.
2. The Best Assessment Tool for Your Measurable Objectives
 - Strategies for developing measurable teaching objectives
 - Bloom's taxonomy
 - Assessment tools that objectives may imply
 - Aligning assessments with standards through the study of cognitive rigor
3. Developing Standards-Based Performance Tasks
 - Types of performance tasks
 - Writing specific step-by-step directions for students
 - Providing standard-based scaffolding in the task in preparation for assessment.
4. Checklists
 - Checklists and point-allocated checklists to measure performance task achievement
 - Aligning checklist criteria to state standards
5. Rubrics
 - Performance task and on-demand rubrics
 - Aligning and describing criteria relevant to state standards
 - Former NAEP and PACT rubrics will be used to demonstrate constructed response and extended response holistic rubrics
6. Developing High Quality, Multiple-Choice Tests (2 parts)
 - Interpretive exercises (measuring higher-order thinking skills)
 - Item writing guidelines
 - Exemplars used from former NAEP and PACT assessments
7. Determining the Effectiveness of Your Classroom Assessments
 - Question difficulty level
 - Question discrimination
 - Reliability
 - Validity
 - Web site demonstration of item analysis for multiple-choice tests
 - Excel demonstration for calculating reliability
8. Portfolio Assessments
 - Showcase, growth, and collection portfolios demonstrated
 - Organization and methods of scoring
9. Grading
 - Determining appropriate criteria and content for end-of-reporting period grades
 - Focusing on achievement of content
 - The use of multiple measures
10. Interpreting Test Scores
 - Means and standard deviations
 - Types of scale scores
 - Grade equivalent scores
 - Examples from NAEP, PACT, and SAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ARTS TEAM
OFFICE OF CURRICULUM
AND STANDARDS
SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Suzette Lee, Coordinator
803-A Rutledge Building
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Phone: 803-734-6103
Fax: 803-734-6142
Email: slee@sde.state.sc.us

www.myschools.com

Literacy Links is a publication of the English Language Arts Team of the South Carolina State Department of Education. It is published once a month and is electronically distributed to districts and schools across the state. Any attachments to this publication will be on the pages following this page.



English
Language Arts Team

Literacy Links volume IV

The Office of Curriculum and Standards provides statewide leadership and services to schools and districts to ensure the implementation of grade-level standards-based instruction for all students.

We accomplish this by:

- developing and revising academic standards and expanding support materials;
- promoting the use of effective evidence-based instructional practices by schools and districts; and
- facilitating the implementation of programs, projects, grants, and activities that support standards-based instruction

The ELA Team in the Office of Curriculum and Standards would like to extend a warm welcome to you at the start of this school year. Please call any of the team members if you have questions or concerns about any of the ELA team's initiatives and programs.

(From left to right, front row first.)

Cathy Jones

Standards Implementation, Best Practice Seminar Series, SCRI Phase 2 liaison and SCRI Continuing Contact liaison.

803-734-0790

cjones@sde.state.sc.us

Pat Branham

South Carolina Reading First

803-734-4326

pbranham@sde.state.sc.us

Pam Huxford

Reading Recovery, South Carolina Reading First Intervention Model, SCRF (SCREADS) Liaison

803-734-8825

phuxford@sde.state.sc.us

Allison Norwood

English 1 and 2 Projects, Applied Academics, *Literacy Links*, SCRI-MG liaison

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anorwood@sde.state.sc.us

Suzette Lee

Coordinator of the ELA team

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South Carolina Reading First Coordinator

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Caroline Savage

Middle Grades consultant, SCRI-MG liaison

803-743-4770

843-763-1390

csavage@sde.state.sc.us

(Caroline was not available for this photo; she was at home with her new daughter, Ella Margaret.)



Exemplary Writing Awards Program Workshop

The State Department of Education and the Writing Improvement Network are offering a workshop for schools considering applying for the Exemplary Writing Awards Program in the future. The workshop will be held on September 8, 2004 and repeated September 14, 2004, in the Columbia area from 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. All public elementary, middle, and high schools and child development centers are eligible. Schools should register **English language arts instructional leaders** from their school. (Examples: literacy coaches, teacher specialists, department or grade level chairs, literacy or writing team members, curriculum coordinators, principals or assistant principals for instruction, etc.) ***Each school may register no more than two participants.***

Registration forms may be e-mailed to Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net or faxed to her at 803-329-1952. Participation will be on a first-come, first-served basis. A confirmation e-mail will be sent to registrants with directions and details for the seminar. Unless you receive a confirmation, do not consider yourself registered. **If you have any questions concerning your registration, please contact Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net. If you have any questions concerning the seminar, contact Christy Clonts at cclonts@sc.rr.com.**

Check one.

- ☐ September 8, 2004
- ☐ September 14, 2004

Please provide the following information.

Name_____

Position_____Grade_____

District_____School_____

Street Address_____

City_____State_____Zip Code_____

Telephone (_____)_____Fax (_____)_____

School E-mail_____

Home Street Address_____

City_____State_____Zip Code_____

Telephone (_____)_____Fax (_____)_____

Home E-mail_____

Registration Form

2004-05 English Language Arts Best Practice Seminars

A series of seminars highlighting best practices in the area of English language arts will be offered during the 2004-2005 school year to South Carolina K-12 educators by the English Language Arts Team in the Office of Curriculum and Standards at the State Department of Education and the South Carolina Council of the International Reading Association (SCIRA). A schedule of the sessions, dates, audiences, and locations is included with this registration form.

All sessions will be held in Columbia at the Columbia Conference Center, with the exception of Session 2, which will be held at the River Center at Saluda Shoals Park. Each session will begin at 9:30 A.M. and conclude at 3:30 P.M. Lunch will be provided.

Instructions: To register for any of these seminars, please complete the form on the next page and mail it and a *check made payable to SCIRA for \$50.00 for each session for which you are registering* to Judy Redman at Post Office Box 10101, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29731. Payment is due with registration. No purchase orders will be accepted. Participation will be on a first-come with check, first-served basis. A confirmation e-mail will be sent to registrants. Unless you receive a confirmation, do not consider yourself registered.

If you have any questions concerning your registration, please contact Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net, or fax at 803-329-1952. If you have any questions concerning the seminar, contact Cathy Jones at 803-734-0790 or cjones@sde.state.sc.us.

Registration Form

2004-05 English Language Arts Best Practice Seminars

Please indicate with an "X", beside the REGISTRATION column, the session(s) you wish to attend.

Regis- tration	Session	Date/Presenter	Registration Deadline	Topic
	Session 1	September 27, 2004 <i>Jim and Kathleen Strickland</i>	September 10, 2004	<i>Making Assessment Elementary</i>
	Session 2	September 30, 2004 <i>Teri Lesesne</i>	September 15, 2004	<i>Making the Match—The Right Book for the Right Reader at the Right Time</i>
	Session 3	October 4, 2004 <i>Sandra Wilde</i>	September 17, 2004	<i>The Phonics Debate—What It's All About and What Teachers Should Be</i>
	Session 4	November 13, 2004 <i>Sharon Taberski</i>	October 29, 2004	<i>On Solid Ground—Strategies for Teaching Reading</i>
	Session 5	December 10, 2004 <i>Janet Allen</i>	November 22, 2004	<i>Shared Reading as the Heart of a Comprehensive Literacy Program</i>
	Session 6	January 26, 2005 <i>Cris Tovani</i>	January 10, 2005	<i>Parallel Experiences: Noticing Thinking to Inform Instruction</i>
	Session 7	February 23, 2005 <i>Ellin Kene</i>	February 7, 2005	<i>The Intricacies of the Mind: Teaching Reading Comprehension</i>
	Session 8	April 7, 2005 <i>Janet Allen</i>	March 21, 2005	<i>Testing Best Practice: Planning for Results!</i>
	Session 9	April 25, 2005 <i>Harvey Daniels</i>	April 8, 2005	<i>Literature Circles—Beyond the Basics</i>
	Session 10	April 26, 2005 <i>Harvey Daniels</i>	April 8, 2005	<i>Content Area Reading—Strategies, Interaction, and Skills</i>
	Session 11	May 14, 2005 <i>Jim Burke</i>	April 25, 2005	<i>Reading Reminders—Tools, Tips, and Techniques</i>

Name _____

Position _____ Grade _____

District _____ School _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

School E-mail _____

Home Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

Home E-mail _____

Registration Form

Literacy Leadership Institute with Dr. Janet Allen

Two Literacy Leadership Follow Up dDays

This professional development is for literacy leaders who attended the Literacy Leadership Institute July 29-30, 2004.

Instructions: To register for these follow up days, please complete this form and mail it to Judy Redman at Post Office Box 10101, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29731. *Please indicate the session(s) you will attend by placing an X in the box beside the session(s) date(s) you wish to attend.* A confirmation e-mail will be sent to registrants with directions and details for the institute. Unless you receive a confirmation, do not consider yourself registered. **If you have any questions concerning your registration, please contact Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net. If you have any questions concerning the these follow up days, contact Allison Norwood at 803-734-2469 or anorwood@sde.state.sc.us.**

Registration	Session	Registration Deadline	Location
	October 29, 2004	October 15, 2004	River Center, Saluda Shoals Park in Irmo
	February 10, 2005	January 21, 2005	Columbia Conference Center

Name_____

Position_____

District_____School_____

Street Address_____

City_____State_____Zip Code_____

Telephone (_____)_____Fax(_____)_____

School E-mail_____

Home Street Address_____

City_____State_____Zip Code_____

Telephone (_____)_____Fax(_____)_____

Home E-mail_____

Registration Form
Framing Best Practice:
English 1 Curriculum and Instruction

Four English I Curriculum Resource Follow Up Days

This professional development is for English 1 teachers and school and district curriculum leaders who attended the initial English 1 Two-day session.

Instructions: To register for these follow up days, please complete this form and mail it to Judy Redman at Post Office Box 10101, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29731. *Please indicate the session(s) you will attend by placing an X in the column beside the date(s) of the session(s) you wish to attend.* A confirmation e-mail will be sent to registrants with directions and details for the institute. Unless you receive a confirmation, do not consider yourself registered. **If you have any questions concerning your registration, please contact Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net. If you have any questions concerning the these follow up days, contact Allison Norwood at 803-734-2469 or anorwood@sde.state.sc.us.**

Registration	Session	Registration Deadline	Location
	October 28, 2004	October 15, 2004	Columbia Conference
	December 8, 2004	November 19, 2004	Columbia Conference
	February 8, 2005	January 21, 2005	Columbia Conference
	April 5, 2005	March 18, 2005	Columbia Conference

Name_____

Position_____

District _____ School_____

Street Address_____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Fax(_____) _____

School E-mail_____

Home Street Address_____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Fax(_____) _____

Home E-mail_____

Registration Form

Framing Best Practice: English 1 Curriculum and Instruction

Two-day Workshop with Dr. Janet Allen and English I Pilot Teachers

September 23-24, 2004

Columbia Conference Center

Columbia, SC

This professional development is for English I teachers and school and district curriculum leaders, who did not attend the session on June 7-8, 2004.

Instructions: Participation will be on a first-come, first-served basis. A confirmation e-mail will be sent to registrants with directions and details for the workshop. Unless you receive a confirmation, do not consider yourself registered. **If you have any questions concerning your registration, please contact Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net.** If you have any questions concerning the seminar, contact Allison Norwood at 803-734-2469 or anorwood@sde.state.sc.us. To register for this seminar, please complete this form and mail it to Judy Redman at Post Office Box 10101, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29731 **no later than September 10, 2004.**

Please provide the following information.

Name_____

Position_____Grade_____

District_____School_____

Street Address_____

City_____State_____Zip Code_____

Telephone (_____)_____Fax (_____)_____

School E-mail_____

Home Street Address_____

City_____State_____Zip Code_____

Telephone (_____)_____Fax (_____)_____

Home E-mail_____

Directions to the SC Department of Archives and History

8301 Parklane Road

Columbia, SC

If driving **from downtown Columbia** take Bull Street (Highway 277 North) eight miles to the Parklane Road exit. At the traffic light turn left onto Parklane Road. Cross the bridge and the History Center is on the left.

If driving **from Charlotte** on Interstate 77 South take exit 18, Highway 277 and then take the Parklane Road exit. Turn right onto Parklane Road and the History Center will be on the left.

If driving **from Charleston** on Interstate 26 West take exit 116 Charlotte Interstate 77 North. Off of I-77 North take exit 19 Farrow Road (Highway 555 South). At the traffic light on Farrow Road turn left onto Parklane Road. The History Center is three tenths of a mile on the right.

If driving **from Greenville/Spartanburg** on Interstate 26 East take exit 107B Interstate 20 East. On I-20 East take exit 73B Interstate 77 North/Highway 277 North. Take the Parklane Road exit off Highway 277 North and turn left at the traffic light. Cross the bridge and the History Center is on the left.

If driving **from Augusta** on Interstate 20 East take exit 73B Interstate 77 North/Highway 277 North. Take the Parklane Road exit off Highway 277 North and turn left at the traffic light. Cross the bridge and the History Center is on the left.

If driving **from Florence** on Interstate 20 West take exit 76A Interstate 77 Charlotte/Charleston. Veer to the right on Interstate 77 North Charlotte and then take exit 19 Farrow Road (Highway 555 South). At the traffic light on Farrow Road turn left onto Parklane Road and the History Center is three tenths of a mile on your right.

If driving **from the Columbia Airport** turn left towards Columbia on Highway 302. Take the exit for Interstate 26 West (Spartanburg). On I-26 West take exit 107B Interstate 20 East (Florence). On I-20 East take exit 73B Interstate 77 North/Highway 277 North. Take the Parklane Road exit off Highway 277 North and turn left at the traffic light. Cross the bridge and the History Center is on the left.



Registration Form

Fall 2004 English Language Arts Update

October 5, 2004

Instructions:

If you plan to attend the statewide English language arts update on October 5, 2004, please complete this form and either mail, fax, or e-mail it to Judy Redman according to the information provided below. Please respond by Friday, October 1, 2004.

Judy Redman
Post Office Box 10101
Rock Hill,
South Carolina 29731

Fax: 803-329-1952
Email: jredman@comporium.net

Please complete.

Name_____

Position_____

District/College/University_____

Email Address_____

List items that you would like placed on the agenda or questions that you would like answered.

Grant Writing Workshop Series

Registration Form

Dates and Times:

September 28–30, 2004

September 28: 9:00–4:00

September 29: 9:00–4:00

Location: Conference Room, SCETV Telecommunications Center, 1041 George Rogers Boulevard (near Williams-Brice Stadium) For directions, go to <http://www.sctv.org/AboutETV/directions.shtml>

Important Information

- To receive credit for the series, you must be present at all times and take the pre-test and post-test
- No meals, beverages, or snacks will be provided. You may bring your own.
- Limited parking is available at the SCETV Center site.
- Payment is nonrefundable.
- Please bring a large, three-ring binder to the class to hold materials that will be provided.

How to Register

- Provide all the information below and send this form with payment to the above address. Payment must accompany this registration form.
- Personal, district, or school checks need to be payable to South Carolina Department of Education.
- Registration and \$75 payment must be received by 5:00 P.M. on September 14, 2004. From September 15 until September 17, late registration (\$85 per seat) is available. Only 50 seats are available.

Name	_____	E-mail Address	_____
School	_____	Social Security #	_____
District	_____	SC Certificate #	_____
Address	_____		_____
Address	_____		_____

More than one person can be registered with this form. Each person registered must provide all information requested above. Please attach extra pages as necessary. Payment for all registrants must be included with the registration form(s).

Quantity*	Description	Price	Total
	Grant Writing Workshop Series (September 28–30, 2004)	\$75.00 per person	
		Total Due	

Please complete this registration form and send it with payment to The Grants Office, SC Department of Education, 1429 Senate Street, Room 1002, Columbia, SC 29201

You will receive an e-mail confirmation of your registration after the Grants Office receives payment and this completed registration form.

Please keep a copy of this registration form for your records.

Registration Form

Authors at the Beach #4
Carolina Forest Elementary School
285 Carolina Forest Blvd.
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

Fill out the information below. You may fax (843-448-0929), e-mail (KidConnect2002@aol.com) or mail (KidConnection, 2970-28 Swan Court, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577) the information form.

All checks and school purchase orders are to be made payable to KidConnection. All registration fees including checks representing purchase orders must be received by KidConnection on or before September 24, 2004. Due to limited seating, all reservations held by KidConnection on and/or after September 10, 2004, will be nonrefundable.

Name_____

Current e-mail address_____

Home Address_____

Daytime Phone #_____

Phone # after 5:00 p.m._____

School_____

School Address_____

Method of Payment:

_____ Personal Check _____ School Check _____ School Purchase Order

For more information, contact Annie Smith at 843-450-5653 or visit our website at
www.KidConnection2002.com.